

Application No. 10/561,668
Amendment Dated April 13, 2009
Reply to Office Action Dated February 12, 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of issuing a ticket paid for with illegal payment means during a transaction between a user and a ticket vending machine, at the end of which transaction the machine issues a ticket to the user in exchange for payment using payment means, the machine including means for detecting illegal payment means, said method comprising the steps of:

paying for ~~[[a]]~~ the ticket by the user using a payment means;

checking that the payment means used are regular, by the machine;

if the payment means are checked as being regular, printing the ticket, during which a regular ticket is printed on a blank ticket or medium;

issuing the ticket to the user; and

if the payment means are checked as being illegal, a ~~the~~ printed ticket is marked in such a manner as to enable the marked ticket to be distinguished from a regular ticket during an inspection operation.

2. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ticket is

Application No. 10/561,668
Amendment Dated April 13, 2009
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marked in a manner that is immediately visible.

3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the marked ticket includes at least one additional symbol compared with a regular ticket.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the marked ticket $[(28M)]$ includes at least one symbol $[(42)]$ fewer than a regular ticket $[(28R)]$.

5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the marked ticket includes at least one symbol that is modified compared with a regular ticket.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the marked ticket includes an invisible mark.

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the mark is made visible by prolonged exposure of the ticket to normal atmospheric or light conditions.

8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 7, of the type in which the ticket carries information stored in magnetic form, the method being characterized in that the marked ticket includes special magnetic information, and in that the inspection

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operator is performed by a ticket reader.

9. (previously presented) A vending machine for implementing the method according to claim 1, wherein it includes means for issuing a warning signal for the attention of a supervisor.

10. (previously presented) A ticket reader according to claim 8, wherein it includes means for issuing a warning signal for the attention of a supervisor.